

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1234

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR GE GW WB UR US UN PG

REF: BONN 11598

1. IN COURSE OF JULY 22 SPEECH GIVEN IN EAST BERLIN IN
COMMEMORATION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC,
CHAIRMAN OF GDR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SINDERMAN REITERATED GDR'S
INTENTION TO EXCLUDE PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY OF
FEA FROM TRANSIT ROUTES AS SOON AS LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING
AGENCY ENTERS INTO FORCE. SINDERMAN CHARGED FEA
DECISION CONSTITUTED "DIRECT VIOLATION" OF " MAIN PROVISION"
OF QA, AND JUSTIFIED GDR COUNTERACTION ON GROUNDS THAT
STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THIS "MAIN PROVISION" WAS BASIS FOR
GUARANTEE OF UNIMPEDED TRAVEL ON TRANSIT ROUTES. AT
SAME TIME, HOWEVER, SINDERMAN SOUGHT TO CIRCUMSCRIBE EFFECT
OF ANNOUNCED BAN BY ASSERTING THAT GDR, "AS WAS WELL-KNOWN,"
OBSERVED TRANSIT AGREEMENT "EXACTLY" AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO
SO IN FUTURE.

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2. AS EXPECTED, REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES IN BERLIN HAVE TAKEN STRONG PUBLIC STAND AGAINST THREATENED GDR MEASURES. DEFENDING ESTABLISHMENT OFFER AS CONSISTENT WITH QA, ACTING GOVERNING MAYOR NEUBAUER CHARACTERIZED THREATENED BAN AS "CLEAR" AND UNACCEPTABLE BREACH OF QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. FOR THE PRESENT, HOWEVER, NEUBAUER EXCLUDED POSSIBILITY OF RESPONDING WITH ECONOMIC SANCTIONS IN INNER-GERMAN TRADE. CDU CHAIRMAN LORENZ SIMILARLY TERMED GDR THREAT A "CRASS" BREACH OF TRANSIT AGREEMENT, WHILE HIS COLLEAGUE, FRAKTION CHAIRMAN LUMMER, WORKED DOMESTIC POLITICAL ANGLE BY ASSERTING THAT HESITANCY OF SPD-FDP GOVERNMENT OVER FEA AND ITS MORE OR LESS TOLERANCE OF HARASSMENT OF TRANSIT TRAFFIC LAST JANUARY HAD ENCOURAGED SOVIETS AND GDR IN THEIR "ARBITRARY" INTERPRETATION OF AGREEMENTS. ON BEHALF OF FDP, CHAIRMAN LUEDER DECLARED THAT ANNOUNCED GDR MEASURES COULD NOT GO UNANSWERED AND CALLED FOR ALLIES TO INTERVENE "VIGOROUSLY" WITH SOVIET UNION TO DEMAND OBSERVANCE OF QA.

3. COMMENT: THE SUCCESSION OF GDR PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE FEA INDICATE A CONSIDERED SOVIET/EAST GERMAN DECISION TO LIMIT THE APPLICATION OF THREATENED GDR COUNTERMEASURES TO PEOPLE AND THINGS CONNECTED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE. IT IS ENTIRELY CONCEIVABLE THAT A CONFRONTATION ON THE ISSUE MAY BE ENTIRELY AVOIDED EITHER BECAUSE THE WEST GERMANS DECIDE NOT REPEAT NOT TO TEST GDR INTENTIONS (E.G. USING AIR RATHER THAN LAND ACCESS ROUTES FOR PERSONNEL) OR BECAUSE THE GDR AVOIDS A HEADON COLLISION BY CHOOSING NOT REPEAT NOT TO FACTOR OUT THE PRECISE IDENTITY OF THE INDIVIDUALS AND THINGS INVOLVED. HOWEVER, POLITICAL FACT IS THAT ALLIES AND THE FRG AT THIS JUNCTURE CAN NOT REALLY IGNORE THE CHALLENGE TO THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT BY THE SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN STATEMENTS AND PRONOUNCEMENTS THAT HAVE COME OUT IN REGULAR SUCCESSION THESE PAST FEW DAYS. FOR THIS REASON, WE URGE STRONGLY THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRESS LINE PROPOSED IN THE BONN GROUP IN BONN'S 11598.KLEIN

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